

# STRONGER COLLABORATION, BETTER HEALTH

Global Action Plan for Healthy  
Lives and Well-being for All

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Strengthening collaboration among  
multilateral organizations to ensure an  
equitable and resilient recovery from  
COVID-19 and to regain lost ground on  
and accelerate progress towards the  
health-related Sustainable Development  
Goals.



# What is the SDG3 GAP?



“**Collaboration is the path, impact is the destination.**”

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The **Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Wellbeing for All (SDG3 GAP)** was launched at the UN General Assembly in September 2019.

It is a set of commitments by 13 multilateral agencies that play significant roles in health, development and humanitarian responses to help countries accelerate progress on the health-related SDG targets, through strengthening collaboration across the agencies to take joint action and provide more coordinated support aligned to country owned and led national plans and strategies.

The SDG3 GAP is a platform for improving collaboration among the biggest players in global health, with specific but complementary mandates. Under the SDG3 GAP, agencies commit to aligning their ways of working to provide more streamlined support to countries and reduce inefficiencies. Although referred to as a “global” plan, the added value of the SDG3 GAP lies in coordinated support, action and progress in countries.

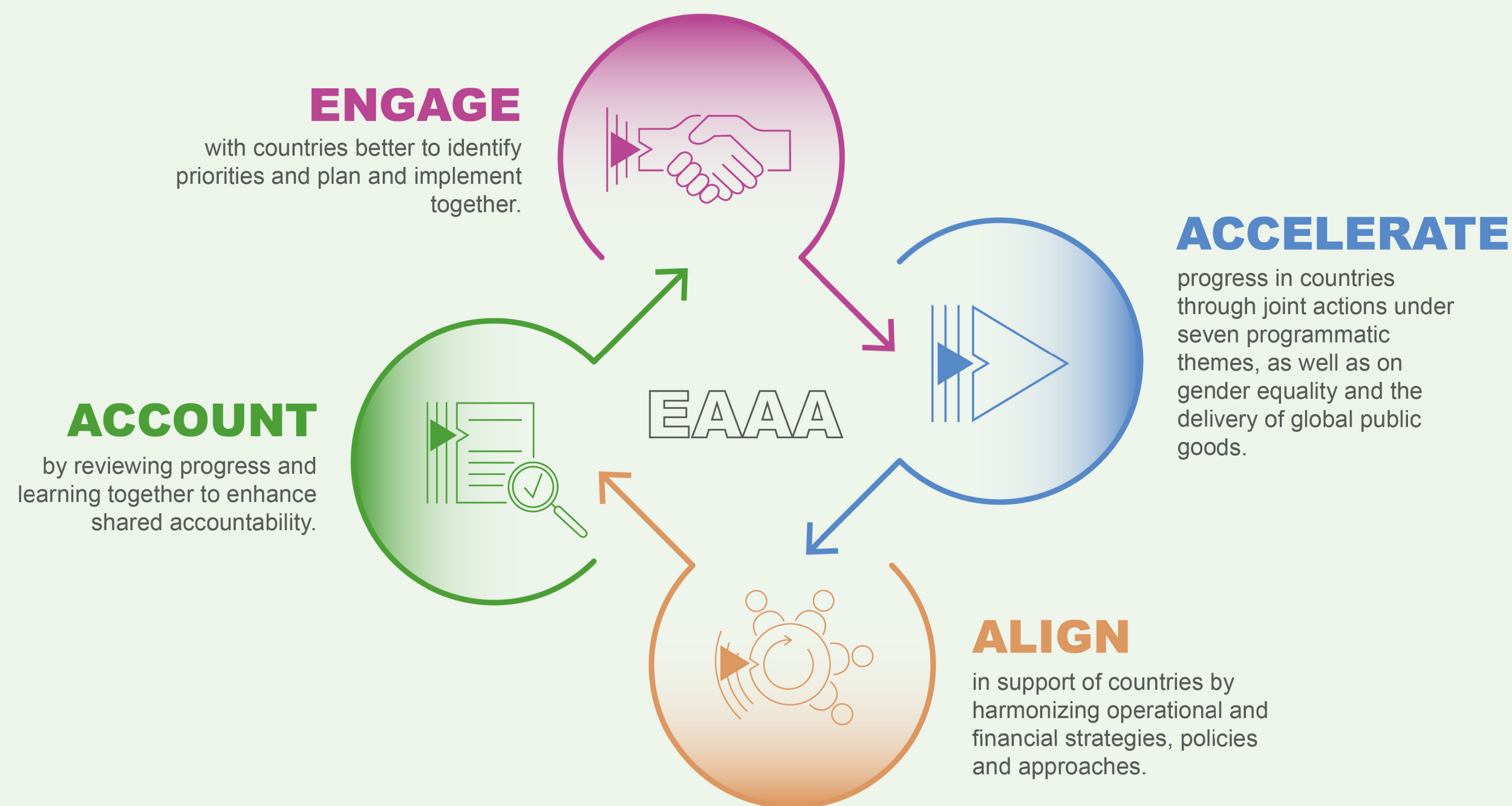
## Signatory agencies of the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All (SDG3 GAP)



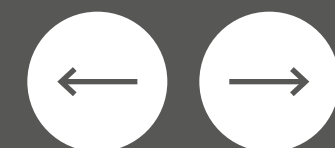
Support provided by the agencies is based on country priorities and brings together those agencies that add the most value in the areas identified.

The SDG3 GAP sets out the signatory agencies’ commitments to Engage, Accelerate, Align and Account through adopting new ways of working, building on existing successful collaborations, and jointly aligning support around national plans and

strategies that are country owned and led. The agencies consistently promote gender equality and attention to the needs of marginalised and vulnerable people.



Title page photo: ©UNICEF/Frank Dejongh



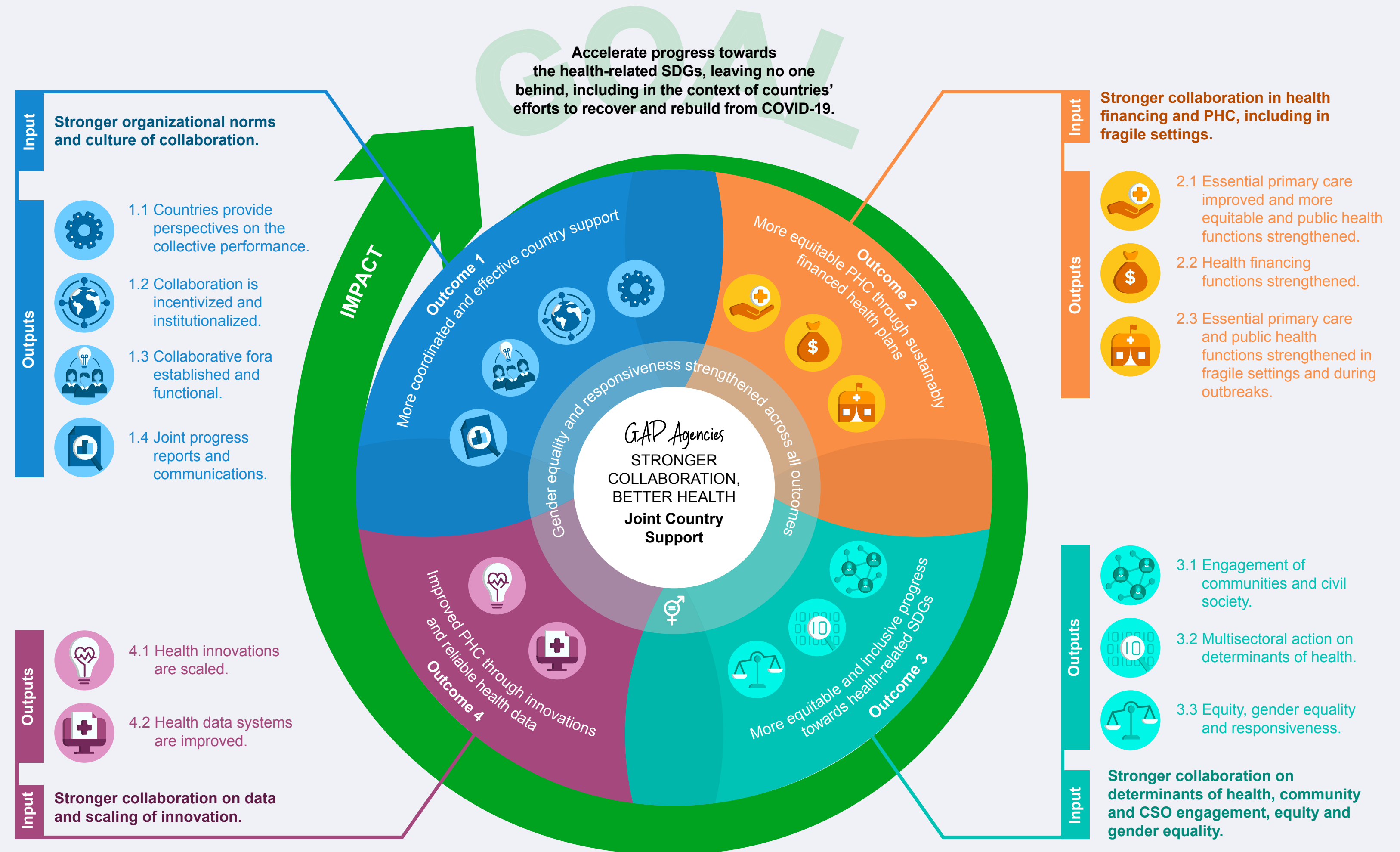
# What is the goal?

The goal of the Plan is to accelerate progress towards the health-related SDGs, by supporting countries' efforts, using a PHC-based approach, through closer collaboration across the multilateral agencies active in health and stronger alignment to national plans and priorities. Its principal measure of success is therefore the achievement of the health-related SDG targets by 2030.

The SDG3 GAP provides a platform to continuously improve the way the multilateral agencies collaborate in support of country efforts to achieve the health-related SDG targets, enabled by stronger incentives for collaboration from the member states and governing bodies of the SDG3 GAP agencies.

## By 2023, the Plan will have brought three main changes:

- ▶ Better coordination,
- ▶ Reduced burden on countries and
- ▶ A change in organizational culture of the agencies, built on purpose-driven collaboration.



# Why is the SDG3 GAP needed?

## Joint Action for Impact

The impact of cascading and intersecting global crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, has meant **the world is going only about a quarter of the pace needed to reach the health-related SDG targets by 2030** and no country was fully prepared for the COVID-19 pandemic.

The global health architecture is complex and **avoiding duplication and driving efficiencies** can strengthen systems for health.

Just as the impact of crises is compounded when they are linked, so are solutions.

A key way to respond to and ensure an equitable and resilient recovery from crises and regain progress towards the health-related SDGs and the commitment to leave no one behind, is for multilateral agencies to collaborate even more closely in providing joint support to countries, which is the foundation of the SDG3 GAP.

Under the SDG3 GAP, **agencies commit to aligning their ways of working to provide more streamlined support to countries and reduce inefficiencies.**



What is the SDG3 GAP?

What is the goal?

Why is it needed?

How does it work?

Accountability

Challenges & solutions



# How does the SDG3 GAP support collaboration at country level?

## Joint Action for Impact

Action and impact in countries are central to the SDG3 GAP. Agencies' country teams are what bring the Plan to life at country-level. Principals of the SDG3 GAP support and inform country teams on what can be achieved through their commitments.

Collaboration structures are well-established including through communities of practice in accelerator areas such as primary health care, with a strong focus on gender equality and equity.

Work at the country level increasingly spans several accelerator themes, for example on primary health care and sustainable financing, while also helping to strengthen data systems, promote equity and gender equality and bring innovation to scale.



Joint letter from Principals' to country-facing teams



Examples of country work can be found here



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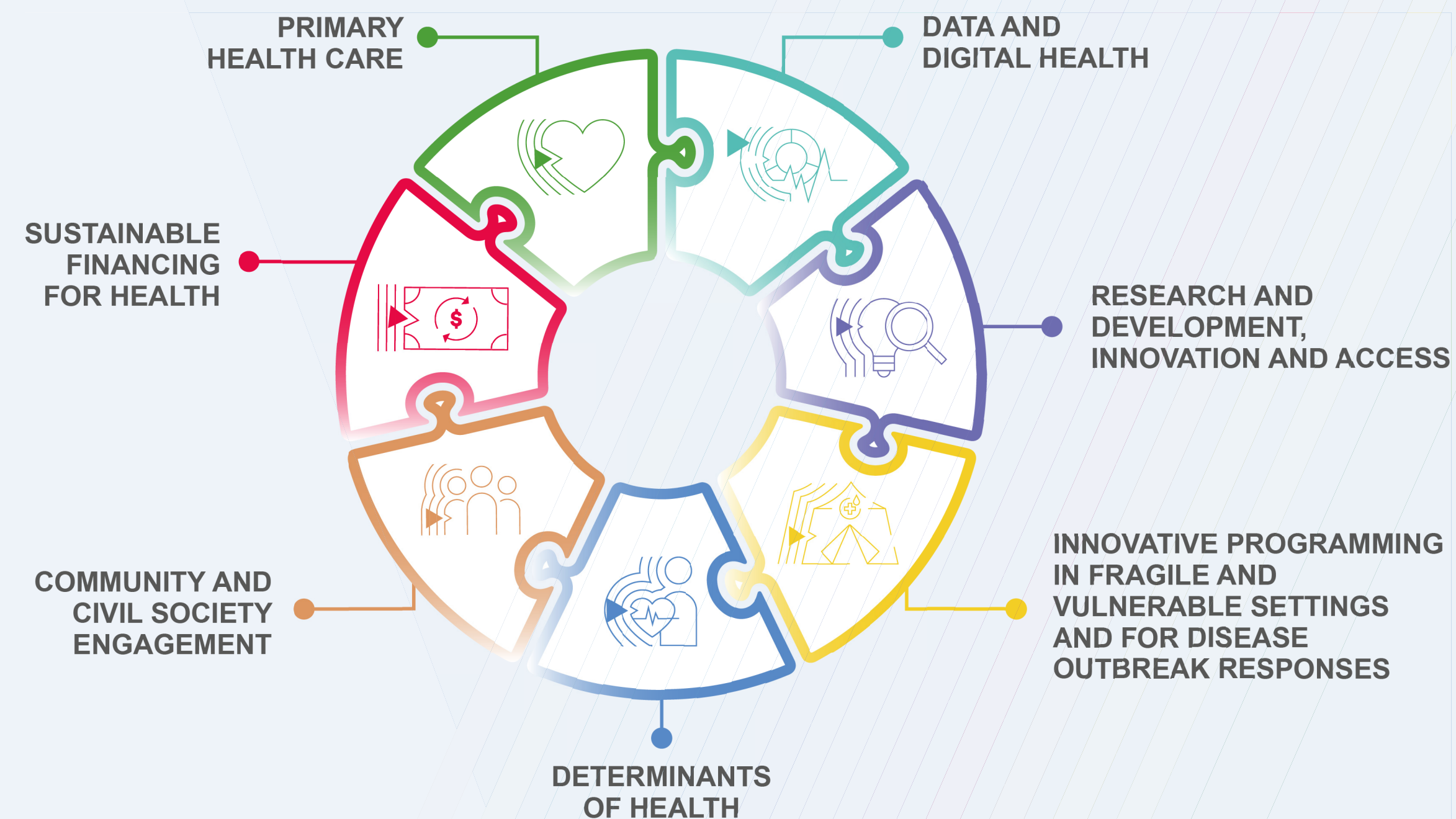
# Communities of Practice and alignment

Through the SDG 3 GAP, the agencies provide joint support to countries under seven “accelerator themes” or communities of practice, and gender equality. Making progress across these thematic areas is essential to overall progress on the health-related SDGs.

This work is supported at the global level, where SDG3 GAP agencies participate in working groups on each of the accelerator themes based on their capacities and mandates to align their efforts and jointly support governments and the agencies’ country facing teams in activities such as review, assessment, planning, strategy development, capacity building, other types of technical assistance and more joined-up financing. In addition to supporting activities at the country level, some working groups have also developed global public goods, including for the response to COVID-19.

The SDG3 GAP helps integrate global health initiatives, thereby helping to reduce the level of fragmentation in the global health architecture, making coordination easier for countries.

- ▶ The work of the H6, linked to the Every Woman Every Child agenda, is now fully integrated into the SDG3 GAP.
- ▶ SDG3 GAP and the Health Data Collaborative are interlinked through the SDG3 GAP Data and Digital Accelerator Working Group and the support provided to countries on strengthening data systems is fully aligned and integrated.
- ▶ SDG3 GAP joint work with UHC2030 will focus on jointly supporting countries to deliver on their UHC commitments.

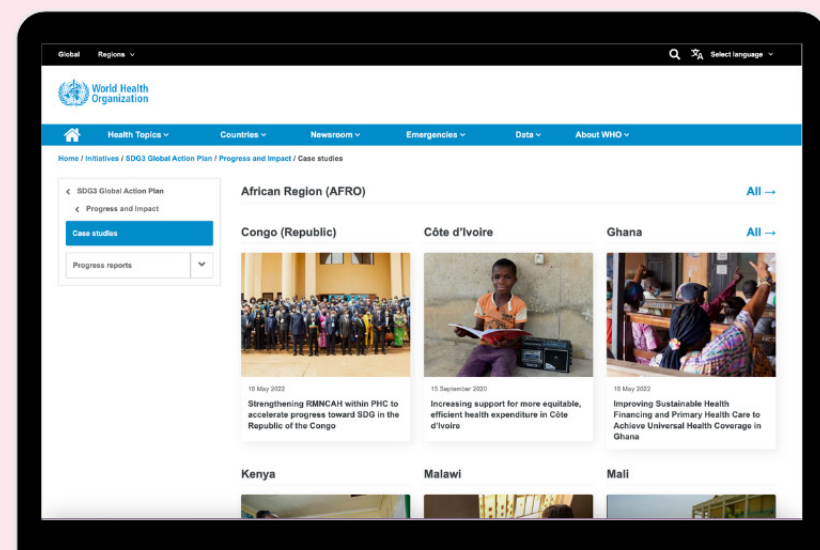


# Reviewing progress and learning together to enhance shared accountability

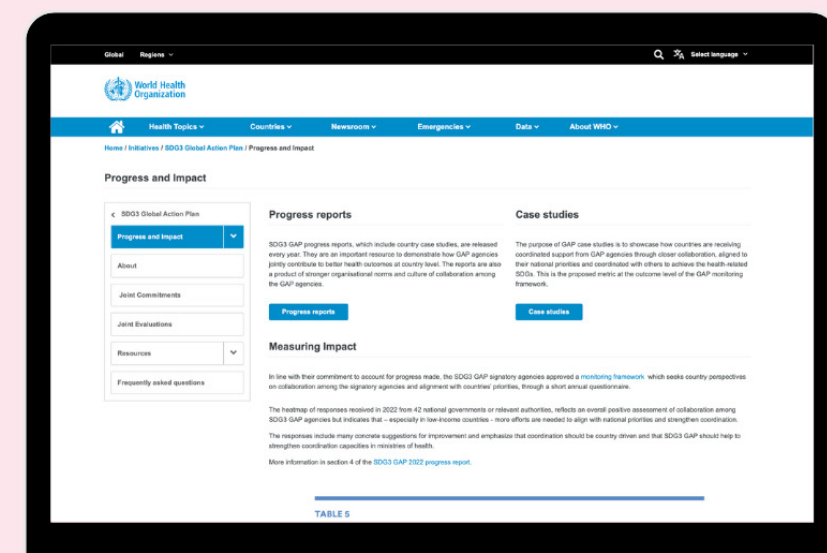
Through the **SDG3 GAP monitoring framework**, countries are rating how well the support of the agencies is aligned to their priorities and how well the agencies are collaborating. They can also suggest how to further improve SDG3 GAP support to countries including strengthening national coordination mechanisms and aligning further with their national priorities.

SDG3 GAP partners continue to invite Governments to rate their collaboration and suggest how to improve it, through a short questionnaire.

Joint work at country level is also captured through qualitative case studies, the purpose of which is to showcase how countries are receiving coordinated support from GAP agencies through closer collaboration, aligned to their national priorities and coordinated with others to achieve the health-related SDGs. This is the proposed metric at the outcome level of the GAP monitoring framework.



Case studies



Monitoring framework



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# The challenge of bringing transformational change at country level

## Bringing about transformational change at country level

The SDG3 GAP has made notable, incremental improvements to the health landscape of countries. However, to truly transform how the agencies jointly support countries to respond to crises and recover toward the SDGs will require stronger incentives for collaboration.

Member states have a role to play in optimising the incentives geared to drive collaboration among agencies, to help bring about the transformational change envisioned in the 2030 agenda.

### Strengthening incentives for collaboration

INCENTIVE	PILOT	PATHWAY TO SCALE
1. Joint funding	<b>SDG3 Recovery challenge (WHO internal pilots 2020 and 2021):</b> Providing catalytic support for collaboration is a powerful tool to strengthen collaboration (Box 2)	Establish a joint SDG3 Recovery Challenge
2. Joint monitoring	<b>SDG3 GAP Monitoring Framework:</b> Inviting member states to rate how the agencies are aligning their support to country plans and priorities and how they are collaborating (country questionnaire)	Adapt framework based on lessons from 2022 rollout of monitoring framework (especially country questionnaire)
3. Joint evaluation	<b>Joint Evaluability Assessment 2021 and actions based on management response</b> strengthened SDG3 GAP overall and enabled future evaluation	Independent evaluation of SDG3 GAP in 2023
4. Joint "governance"	Discussion of SDG3 GAP Joint Evaluability Assessment at UNICEF Board, February 2022	Discussions on SDG3 GAP in Boards of signatory agencies, based on monitoring and evaluation

